

Ophthalmic Literature

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Ophthalmic Literature

VOL. VII.

FEBRUARY, 1917.

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Edited by EDWARD JACKSON. Assisted by WILLIAM H. CRISP.

CO-OPERATION FOR AN OPHTHALMIC JOURNAL.

If twenty ophthalmologists joined together to get for themselves a better ophthalmic journal than is now published in America, it would be possible for them to do it if they were willing to pay nearly one thousand dollars apiece for it. But if they would induce others to join with them in the movement until they numbered two thousand, one hundred times as many would have a still better journal for ten dollars apiece. A very large part of the expense of a scientific journal must be met before the first copy is printed. After that the expense of additional copies is comparatively slight.

If the twenty who joined together, were the authors of the most important papers relating to ophthalmology, that were being published, and they published them all in the journal they had established, it would be one well worth reading, and to have at hand to consult in the future. But if there were two thousand interested in the journal, even though nine-tenths of them never published anything, the circle of readers it could offer would be certain to attract the important papers from all sources; and the revenue it could command would enable it to supply a better review of the world's literature than is now furnished by any ophthalmic publication in any language.

It is not unknown for an ophthalmologist to pay out of his own pocket one thousand dollars per year to sustain what he thinks is a better periodical devoted to ophthalmology than others already in the field. But if the twenty were willing to unite in doing this, they would still be unable to secure such a journal as is readily possible with the wider co-operation of the profession. The limits of individual journalism have been approached by several ophthalmic journals already published. The possibilities of co-operative journalism have not yet been developed.

But the co-operation that will be most effective must be general. It must not be limited to a few active workers. Every reader of OPHTHALMIC LITERATURE should consider himself under obligation to his profession to do all he can to bring about such general co-operation. This should be first by pledging his own support; and then in his local society, in conversation with fellow ophthalmologists, and by letter to those of his acquaintance, whom he does not frequently meet, to urge the importance of joining in the movement.

It will be asked by those who have not thought much about the subject, if the ophthalmologists of America can be expected to supply the money that would be needed to sustain a better ophthalmic journal than has yet been published. We believe they can. They serve one hundred millions of people, of better average income than any other equal population in the world. This is twice the population of France, or is one and one-half times the population of the German Empire, or of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, with Canada and Australia. The having of such a journal would be of enormous value to American ophthalmologists, and through them to the people they serve.

Can they be induced to subscribe the necessary amount? We believe they can, if the situation be earnestly presented by those who already understand it. Take a single instance of what American ophthalmologists will do to help themselves and the profession. Nearly five hundred of them are already Fellows of the American College of Surgeons, paying fifty dollars admittance fee, and twenty-five dollars

per year for the good that is to be accomplished by that organization. Nearly twice as many have applications for Fellowship in the College now pending. They are ready to add their money to that of those who are now Fellows to serve the purposes of the College. When any such number become Fellows of the College they will be paying annually for the purposes of the College three times as much as would be necessary to sustain the best journal of ophthalmology. If the ophthalmologists of America do not have such a journal within the next year, we shall feel that the matter has not been properly presented to them.

A SPECIAL JOURNAL.

It has been announced that "Le Journal des Soldats blessés aux yeux," will be published monthly in Paris, under the direction of M. Brieux, who has been devoting his best energies to the service of the blind. Its purpose is to bring to the assistance of those blinded in war the interest and help of all who can be interested in the large number who must take up life again without the aid of sight. It will doubtless contain much that will be of interest to ophthalmologists.

BOOK NOTICES.

Abstract-Bulletin of Nela Research Laboratory. Edward P. Hyde, Director. Vol. 1, No. 2. 8vo. pp. X, and 129 to 302. Illustrated. Nela Research Laboratory, Cleveland, Ohio.

This laboratory is supported by the National Lamp Works of the General Electric Company. Its purpose is to study problems bearing on electric illumination. Out of the thirty-three papers contained in this issue, fully two-thirds should be of interest to ophthalmologists. The titles of these papers are included in the Index of Ophthalmology for this month. They are liberally illustrated with charts, diagrams and half-tone plates. They are all comparatively brief and to the point. Probably more investigation with regard to physiologic optics is being carried on in this laboratory than in any other in the world.

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Tiscornia, A. *Experimental Syphilis of Cornea.* (Boletín de La Sociedad de Oftalmología de Buenos Aires, 3rd year, page 97.)

The experiments were conducted upon rabbits with human syphilitic products, and with syphilitic products derived from another rabbit. In some cases the inoculations were made through scarifications in one eye and scarification and inoculation of the product into the anterior chamber of the other eye, while in some cases only one eye was inoculated by one of the two procedures. After a preliminary period varying from thirty-two to forty days, during which the inflammatory disturbances were limited to those due to the operative traumatism, there began a period of distinct corneal infection, with injection of the conjunctiva, especially marked around the cornea, and reaching in most cases a stage of great intensity, or partially recovering and then relapsing.

The corneal epithelium showed in some cases a small ulceration, in others was elevated so as to resemble a keratoconus, and more commonly underwent partial or complete desquamation. This epithelium became regenerated after a number of days. In the keratitis produced by scarification, as regards the greater part of the cases, infiltration began in the central part of the cornea, and extended eccentrically to the rest of the eye. The keratitis which was most easily obtained was one resembling the parenchymatous variety, which was the first to appear and which in the evolution of the process might become transformed into a nodular keratitis. This latter form was characterized by the formation within the corneal parenchyma of a nodule, at first whitish, to which were directed the new-formed blood vessels, and which later increased in size and changed in color, becoming a grayish-red with more pronounced vascularity. In a more advanced stage this nodule sometimes constituted a true gumma within the corneal parenchyma. In a few cases there was a punctate keratitis, consisting of small points of deep infiltration in the thickness of the corneal parenchyma, and distinguished from the diffuse infiltration of the rest of the cornea. These small nodules were approached by delicate blood vessels.

Experiments in the transmission of syphilis by heredity were conducted by allowing impregnation of the two rabbits in which the Wassermann reaction had proved positive after the development of the corneal lesion. Seven apparently healthy offspring of the first rabbit, tested a month after birth, under control with the blood of healthy rabbits, gave a positive Wassermann reaction. The same result was obtained in these rabbits a month later; but it was impossible to discover any spirilla in the organs of one animal which was later killed for that purpose. A third Wassermann reaction was also positive. In two young rabbits some blood vessels were observed on the iris. Similar results were had from the offspring of the second mother rabbit.

In one rabbit it was possible to obtain a second infection from syphilis, after a much shorter incubation period than in the first infection. The only secondary manifestation of syphilis observed in the rabbit was a typical alopecia.

Microscopically, the cornea at the site of the lesion was found increased in thickness sometimes to twice the normal. In the part affected the epithelium had undergone a hydropic degeneration; and between the epithelial cells were also encountered some infiltration cells. Bowman's membrane was normal. The stroma of the cornea showed an abundant leucocytic infiltration and edema. Beneath Bowman's membrane were numerous blood vessels, large and small, surrounded by infiltration. The membrane of Descemet was normal. The part of the cornea affected contained innumerable spirochetes.

The disease was communicated by means of corneal fragments from one animal to the other, the average incubation being thirty days. These, as well as the animals previously experimented upon, all gave a positive Wassermann reaction.

Valli, O. *Papillomata of Limbus With Invasion of Cornea.* (Annali di Ottalmologia, 44th year, page 755.)

The first case reported was that of a man of 67 years. The tumor, which was said to have existed for ten years, was of a grayish-red color, and occupied the sclero-corneal limbus in its complete circumference, extending more or less widely on to the bulbar conjunctiva and on to the cornea. Its maximum measurements varied from 10 mm. below to 12 mm. above, the greater part of this diameter in each case being on the conjunctiva. It was elevated two or two and one-half mm. from the level of the eyeball. The part of the cornea not invaded by the tumor was cloudy and edematous. The tumor was dissected free from the eyeball, and the eye did fairly well for several months, after which the patient returned with a recurrence at the upper part of the limbus and on the cornea. This new tumor was removed, but the further history of the patient is not given.

The papillary character of the tumor was well marked in microscopic sections. An interesting feature of this tumor and of the next one described was the finding, in the center of dense proliferations of epithelium, of cornified cells constituting true epithelial pearls. Worthy of note also were numerous alterations of a retrogressive character, which were found in the epithelial elements, especially in the middle and superficial layers.

In the second case, that of a woman of 56 years, the history dated back six years. The tumor was astride the limbus, extending on to both the conjunctiva and cornea, having a maximum diameter of 10 mm., and an elevation of 0.8 to 1 mm. Operation was done in two sittings, at first removing that part of the tumor which was upon the sclera, and one week later doing galvanocautery of the pannus-like extension on to the cornea. Complete cure followed. In the third case the patient was 54 years of age, and the affection was of more than three years' duration. The tumor was a smaller one, measuring about 5 by 2 mm., by 3 mm. in elevation. Surgical removal and thermocautery resulted in complete cure.

The microscopic structure of all three tumors was very similar. Each was made up of two distinct layers, a deep layer of new-formed connective tissue elevated into papillae, and a superficial layer formed of the normal epithelium, in which, however, various degenerative processes had taken place. The third tumor differed from the first two by being pedunculated and much more elevated, with long papillae. In spite of the presence of degenerative cellular elements similar to those found in epitheliomata, these new formations are to be regarded as benign tumors.

Azer Wahba. *Fly Blown Orbit.* (Bulletin, Egyptian Ophthalmological Society, 1915, p. 84.)

This writer reported four cases of this condition, three of them in children of 18 months to 3 years. The appearance resembled somewhat panophthalmitis, except that the lids were more extensively involved and large holes were found in the tissue. There was free discharge of pus in all cases, and in the children this contained gonococci, suggesting that a gonococcal conjunctivitis had preceded the invasion of the tissues by the larvae. The number of worms present varied from three to fifteen, and one of the holes left, from which three had been extracted, was large enough to admit the end of a little finger. In the discussion of this paper, four other cases occurring in children were reported, and in two of these cases the gonococcus had been found.

Ophthalmic Journals



- American Journal of Ophthalmology**, St. Louis, Mo.
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